

SPRING 2003

# Marines GOUGE

Volume 1 | Number 1 | [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

In 1775, Congress authorized the "raising of two battalions of Marines" in order to provide a specific force to project power from the sea. Since our humblest beginnings, the Navy-Marine Corps team has strived to achieve excellence in expeditionary warfare. We will continue to provide our great nation with responsive, sustainable, and lethal combat power—projected from great distances and from the sea.

Today, we are globally engaged against one of the most serious threats our country has ever faced. I've seen our Marines first-hand, at home and abroad, and I couldn't be more proud of their skills and warfighting prowess. Marines, in concert with our sister services, have destroyed the Taliban regime and al Qaeda network in Afghanistan and toppled Saddam Hussein's regime, freeing the Iraqi people. I am confident that we will continue to prevail in this fight.

This special edition of **Marines** magazine highlights the efforts of the Leathernecks who fight on the front lines and the Leathernecks who equip, move and sustain our expeditionary forces. Their professionalism and innovative spirit make challenging operations appear routine.

This special edition also recognizes the dedication of Marine families. As Marines fight in the global war on terror, their families remain behind to keep the home fires burning. Our Marines go to the battlefield, strengthened by the love and support of their families.

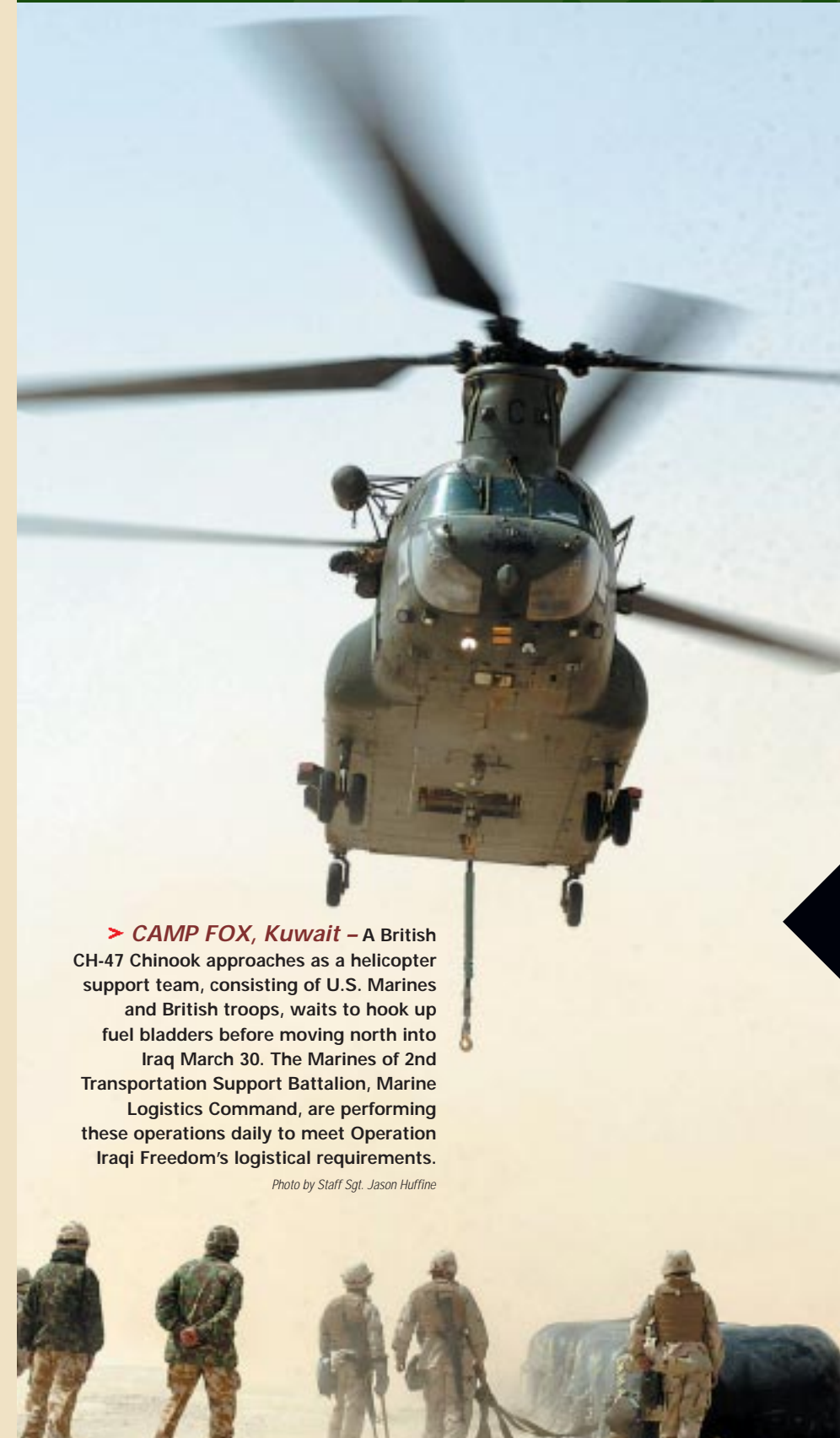
**Semper Fidelis and Keep Attacking**

*M. W. Hagee*

M. W. Hagee  
General, U.S. Marine Corps

Photo by Sgt. Nicholas S. Hizer

# SEMPER FIDELIS



> **CAMP FOX, Kuwait** – A British CH-47 Chinook approaches as a helicopter support team, consisting of U.S. Marines and British troops, waits to hook up fuel bladders before moving north into Iraq March 30. The Marines of 2nd Transportation Support Battalion, Marine Logistics Command, are performing these operations daily to meet Operation Iraqi Freedom's logistical requirements.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Huffline

## FORWARD- DEPLOYED

### 4 | The Terrorist Attacks

The events of Sept. 11 changed America. In the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks, heroes—firefighters, policemen and everyday citizens—sifted through the ash and rubble of the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, searching tirelessly for survivors. Marines were there, in New York and Washington, to lend a hand.

### 12 | '911' Forces

MAGTFs—MEFs, MEBs and MEUs—these are the units forward deployed at the tip of the spear. The Marine Air Ground Task Force is the Marine Corps' main organization for conducting missions. MAGTFs provide commanders with versatile expeditionary forces capable of responding to a broad spectrum of situations. Months of planning and training go into preparing MAGTF Marines for operations "over there."

## 16 | Tip of the Spear

Since Oct. 7, 2001, Marines have been forward deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, staging in key areas for the war on terror. Then March 19, the nation went to war and Operation Iraqi Freedom began. To defend America, Marines are sailing in seas with names they've only read about and hiking through lands with names they can't even pronounce. Wherever they are, they are ready and able to get the job done.



“I told him, ‘Go over there, do what you have to do and come home.’”

— Stephanie Cerna, when her husband Sgt. Jesus Cerna deployed March 20 with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 48

# GOUGE

## IN GARRISON

### Makeup of the Marine Family | 26

These families understand the sacrifices made to keep America free. They come from middle America and both coasts, well-to-do suburbs and low-income slums, farms and cities. Marines are the common thread that binds them to each other and the larger Marine Corps family.



### 30 | Tearful Goodbyes & Joyful Returns

Leaving for deployment is an emotional experience no matter when it happens. When Marines began deploying for the war on terror, it became an even more traumatic experience for the loved ones left behind—making the homecomings more joyous.



### Outside the Gates | 34

When Marines deploy, the communities outside the gate are affected. Businesses, like dry cleaners and barbers, often find their shops empty and count the days until the Marines return. And though emotions run high as anti-war protest are held across America and the world, local communities rally around the flag and our troops, praying for their safe return.



## Marines

Special Issue • Spring 2003  
www.usmc.mil/marinesmagazine

Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Gen. Michael W. Hagee

Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps  
Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael

### MARINE CORPS NEWS

Editor-in-Chief  
Reserve Maj. Greg Reeder

Managing Editor  
Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway

Associate Editor  
Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher

Associate Editor  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

Combat Correspondent  
Reserve Sgt. John R. Lawson

### PUBLICATION DESIGN

Rabil + Bates Communications  
Design Company

Creative Director  
Debra Bates-Schrott

Senior Art Director  
Roger O. Selvage Jr.

Graphic Designers  
Mike Barkley  
Marco Marchegiani  
Seth H. Sirbaugh

Prepress Specialist  
Lisa J. Smith

**Marines** (USPS 013-867) is published eight times annually (quarterly, plus four special editions, printed in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter) by the Division of Public Affairs, Marine Corps News Branch, HQMC, 2 Navy Annex Room 3134, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. Periodicals-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing stations. The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee. All photos not credited are official USMC photos.

**Postmaster:** Send change of address to: **Marines**, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code AREB, 2 Navy Annex, Room 3134, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775.

**Reader Comments:** **Marines**, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code PAMCN, 2 Navy Annex, Room 3134, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775.

### SUBSCRIPTION INFO

**Official DoD Units (Marine & Non-Marine):** Send a fax, letter, or e-mail requesting an individual activity code to: Commandant of the Marine Corps (PAMCN), 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. The letter must contain a complete mailing address, point of contact, phone number, and number of copies required. Fax the request to 703/614-1874. E-mail: mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil.

**Personal/Civilian Subscriptions:** Request your one-year subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Personal subscriptions can be ordered via the Internet at [www.usmc.mil/](http://www.usmc.mil/) order, or by calling 202/512-1800.

## SOUND OFF

### Freedom is not free.

#### MARINES CONTINUE TO PAY THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

with their sweat, their blood and their lives. When our nation calls, we answer. We have gallantly crossed swords with Barbary pirates along the shores of Tripoli. We have defeated entrenched German troops at Belleau Wood in France, earning the title Devil Dogs for our ferociousness. We have fought, inch by inch, to make our way up to a wind-swept peak on Iwo Jima to plant our nation's flag. We have decimated Chinese battalions at the Frozen Chosin, proving our superior battle skills against overwhelming forces. We have slogged through rice patties and hacked through jungles in Vietnam fighting against communism.

Our history echoes with the cries of Marines, who fought and died, who fought and won, because America called us to arms. We pride ourselves on being “most ready when the nation is least ready.”

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, America's call to arms was a roar. The gaping holes where the Twin Towers once stood and the broken walls of the Pentagon are a painful reminder to America that there are terrorist forces in the world that have no guilt about taking innocent human life.

Our president assured us that no matter in what remote corners of the earth they may choose to hide, those

responsible will be found and will be punished. Never again will we be vulnerable to such devastation. As in the past, Marines are ready to fulfill the president's vow. Marines were among the first to engage in the war on terrorism.

From the caves of Afghanistan where we rooted out the Taliban and al Qaeda to the sands of Iraq where we toppled Saddam's forces, we have shown our mettle. Marines have bled and died in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are, as always, prepared to pay the price to ensure America stays free. This special edition to *Marines* highlights the individuals making the sacrifices and fighting the battles. *Marines* shows these portraits of patriotism through the lenses of our combat correspondents and photographers. **M**

Semper Fi



▲ **CAMP COYOTE, Kuwait—** Marines with 7th Marines, listen to Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis, commanding general of 1st Marine Division, at Camp Coyote Feb. 18.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Alan Heusdens



### On the Cover

#### Portraits of Patriotism —

This special edition of *Marines*, Portraits of Patriotism, highlights the Marines on the front line fighting the global war on terrorism. These Portraits of Patriotism include the families left behind and the communities, which have rallied to support our forward-deployed Marines.

Photo by Steve Cole,  
Digital Manipulation by Seth H. Sirbaugh/  
R+B Communication Design Co.